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Office Hours:

GRIFFIN HALL 527

T/TH 11AM-1PM

HIST222-004

GRIFFIN HALL 522

T/TH 2-3:15PM

# U.S HISTORY SINCE 1877



## Course Description

This course examines United States history from the era of Reconstruction to the present. We will pay close attention to social, political, cultural, economic, and intellectual developments during this period. Throughout the semester, we will read selected primary and secondary sources, and dissect a wide range of perspectives and American voices from 1877 to the present.

## Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major chronology of the second half of United States History.
- Demonstrate the ability to narrate and explain long-term changes and continuities throughout this period of study.
- Develop multiple historical literacies by analyzing primary sources of various kinds and using these sources as evidence to support interpretation of historical events.
- Communicate effectively—through speech and writing—their understanding of patterns, process, and themes in the history of the United States.

## Course Policies:

**Classroom Etiquette:** Students who wish to use a **laptop or tablet** for note-taking are welcome to do so. However, the use of laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., email, instant messaging, internet browsing unrelated to the course) is not acceptable and will adversely affect your grade. During class, **cell phone use is always prohibited**, and these devices should be put away, silenced, and be out of sight.

**Communications:** Students are responsible for checking their university email accounts and Moodle regularly. The instructor will communicate with students via email and announcements on the course's Moodle site. Please be sure to use your university email account when corresponding with the instructor.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students must earn this grade through regular attendance and engagement in class. Although this course is classified as a lecture, significant class time will be spent in discussion and group work, so participation is expected for students to demonstrate engagement with the material. Participation includes working with a group during class time and engaging in class

## Grade Distribution

10% Attendance

10% Participation (in-class activities)

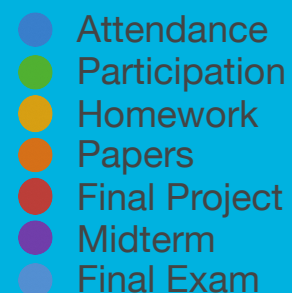
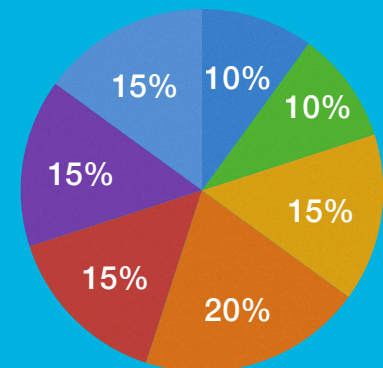
15% Homework Assignments

20% Papers (10% each)

15% Final Project

15% Midterm

15% Final



discussion. You may miss **only two classes** without adversely affecting your grade. Excused absences are granted only in certain circumstances and must be documented (ex: with a doctor's note). If you must miss class, you are responsible for material covered during that session. The instructor will not re-teach a missed class session via email or office hours.

## Learning and Testing Accommodations:

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 337-482-5252 or visit the ODS office in the Conference Center, room 126. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Students should provide the instructor with the appropriate paperwork at the beginning of the semester and in advance of each exam/assignment for which they would like to use their accommodations.

*Reading and Weekly Assignments:* Students are expected to complete all readings **prior** to the class meeting. Students should bring copies of their reading (i.e. the *Problems* textbook, printed sources from provided URLs, or their computers/tablets) with them to class (N.B.: students will not be permitted to use their phones to access the readings during class). The Foner readings listed on each course meeting are recommended, but **optional** (i.e. not necessary). Each week, students will complete assignments on Moodle using the assigned readings for that week. In most cases, students will download and complete a file from Moodle and upload that file to Moodle. Assignments are due **two hours prior to class**. Late work can only receive a maximum of half credit.

*Historical Analysis Papers:* Students will complete two short papers during the semester. Each paper must be 2-3 pages in length. Cite your work using the **Chicago Manual of Style** (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/> and the left menu options for appropriate citation format). Each paper must answer a prompt provided by the instructor. Prompts and rubrics are available on Moodle.

*Final Project:* Students will complete one of the following three projects due on the final day of class: an “unessay”/creative interpretation assignment or a current events assignment. Further details and expectations for this project are available on Moodle. Students will complete steps of the project throughout the semester.

*Midterm and Final Exams:* Exams will test your knowledge of lecture, discussion, and course readings. Both exams will include identification, a primary source analysis essay, and 1-2 essays covering broader topics. Midterms can only be made up with documented excuses (see attendance policy). The final exam is scheduled by the university for **Friday, May 4 at 11am-1:30pm** and cannot be rescheduled unless students have more than three exams scheduled for that date.



**Extra Credit Assignments:** Students may do **up to three** optional extra credit assignments over the course of the semester. The first may **only** be turned in between January 16 to February 15; the second **only** between February 16 to March 15; and the third **only** between March 16 and April 12. Each assignment requires engagement with and citation of primary and/or secondary sources appropriate to the topic. Each of the three assignments can earn you up to one point to your semester grade (an opportunity of three points total). Extra credit assignments are 1-2 page write-ups on one of the following:

- An analysis of a visit to a historical museum or site
- A review of a documentary on any topic in American history since Reconstruction
- A review of a historical film (based on real events, not a film of historical fiction)
- A response to an event sponsored by the History Department

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:** The University considers both cheating and plagiarism serious offenses. The minimum penalty for a student responsible of either dishonest act is a grade of “zero” for the assignment in question. The maximum penalty is dismissal from the University. The complete policy may be found in the UL Lafayette undergraduate catalog:

<http://catalog.louisiana.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=2064#Academic%20Honesty>

#### **Required Texts:**

- Cobbs-Hoffman, Blum, & Gjerde, *Major Problems in American History, Volume II (Since 1865)* Fourth edition (2016)
- Jacqueline Jones Royster, *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900* (any edition)
- Arthur Miller, *The Crucible* (any edition)

#### **Recommended/Optional Text:**

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, Brief Volume 2 (5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017)

Additional readings available on Moodle. Students may buy or rent these texts from whatever seller they prefer. Books must be purchased by the second week of class.

# Course Schedule

| Date                  | Topic  | Reading Assignment Due   | Homework Assignment Due   |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Thursday, January 11  | Introduction to the Course and Syllabus Overview   |  |   |
| Tuesday, January 16   | The Making of Radical Reconstruction               | Read through Syllabus thoroughly.<br>Foner, 441-461.   | Assignment 1: Syllabus Quiz   |
| Thursday, January 18  | The Unmaking of Radical Reconstruction             | <i>Problems</i> , 1-16.<br>Foner, 462-474.   | Assignment 2: Evaluating Primary Sources  |
| Tuesday, January 23   | America's Gilded Age: Labor vs. Capital            | <i>Problems</i> , 67-74.<br>Foner, 475-483; 502-510.   |   |
| Thursday, January 25  | <b>NO CLASS</b>                                    | <i>Problems</i> , 78-94.   | Assignment 3: Identifying Arguments in Secondary Sources                                    |
| Tuesday, January 30   | The Challenge of Populism                          | Bryan, "Cross of Gold" Speech (on Moodle).<br>Foner, 497-501; 512-520.                                       |   |
| Thursday, February 1  | Conquering the West: Myth and History              | <i>Problems</i> , 32-61.<br>Foner, 484-497.  | Assignment 4: Evaluating Secondary Sources  |
| Tuesday, February 6   | Life in Industrial America                         | <i>Problems</i> , 65-67; 74-78; 86-94.<br>Foner, 528-532.  | <b>Sign-up for Final Project in class</b>   |
| Thursday, February 8  | The New South and the Problem of Race              | Royster, <i>Southern Horrors</i> , Part II, all (Part I optional but strongly suggested).<br>Foner, 521-528. | Assignment 5: Writing Historical Analysis Papers  |
| Tuesday, February 13  | <b>NO CLASS: MARDI GRAS BREAK</b>                  |  |   |
| Thursday, February 15 | The American Progressive Era: Culture and Politics | <i>Problems</i> , 125-138.<br>Foner, 546-577.  | Assignment 6: Working with Historically Contingent Ideas<br><br><b>Paper #1 Due</b>         |
| Tuesday, February 20  | An American Empire?                                | <i>Problems</i> , 97-116.<br>Foner, 533-545.   | <b>Final Project: Topic/Project Idea due on Moodle (see directions for each assignment)</b> |
| Thursday, February 22 | America and the Great War                          | <i>Problems</i> , 159-186.<br>Foner, 578-596.  | Assignment 7: Trusting and Challenging Sources  |

| Date  | Topic   | Reading Assignment Due   | Homework Assignment Due  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday, February 27</b>                     | The Aftermath of World War I                            | Foner, 596-611.  | Prepare for exam.  |
| <b>Thursday, March 1</b>                        | <b>Midterm Exam</b>                                     |  | <b>Bring blank Blue Book, 8.5 x 11 size</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday, March 6</b>                         | A New Era: Politics and Society in the Roaring Twenties | <i>Problems</i> , 187-199.<br>Foner, 612-635.  |  |
| <b>Thursday, March 8</b>                        | The Great Depression                                    | Primary sources from HSP's Banker's Trust Collection (on Moodle).<br>Foner, 635-642.   | Assignment 8: Investigating Complex Historical Problems (Bank Failures and the Great Depression in Philadelphia) |
| <b>Tuesday, March 13</b>                        | A New Deal and a New Political Economy                  | <i>Problems</i> , 220-253.<br>Foner, 643-675.  |  |
| <b>Thursday, March 15</b>                       | World War II at Home and Abroad                         | NYT, "Hiroshima: A Controversy that Refuses to Die." (on Moodle).<br>Walker, "History, Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb." (on Moodle).<br>Walker, "Recent Literature on Truman's Atomic Bomb Decision." (on Moodle).<br>Foner, 676-710. | Assignment 9: Debating History (Atomic Bombs)  |
| <b>Tuesday, March 20</b>                        | Cold War Beginnings                                     | <i>The Crucible</i> , all.<br><i>Problems</i> , 285-319.<br>Foner, 711-739.  |  |
| <b>Thursday, March 22</b>                       | The Affluent Society and the Age of Anxiety             | <i>Problems</i> , 321-347.<br>Foner, 740-759.  | Assignment 10: Navigating the Library and Finding Good Sources   |
| <b>Tuesday, March 27</b>                        | Civil Rights and the Great Society                      | <i>Problems</i> , 348-363.<br>Foner, 759-786.  | <b>Paper #2 Due</b>  |
| <b>Thursday, March 29</b>                       | The Sixties   | <i>Problems</i> , 378-391.<br>Foner, 786-808.  | Assignment 11: Working with Unique Primary Sources   |
| <b>Tuesday, April 3 &amp; Thursday, April 5</b> | <b>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</b>                           |  | <b>Begin work on Final Project</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday, April 10</b>                        | The End of the "Golden Age"                             | Watch <i>Truth and Lies: Watergate</i> (link on Moodle).<br>Foner, 809-826.  |  |
| <b>Thursday, April 12</b>                       | The Rise of the New Right                               | <i>Problems</i> , 408-444.<br>Foner, 826-842.  | Assignment 12: Working with Dueling Sources  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 17</b>                        | From Triumph to Tragedy                                 | <i>Problems</i> , 445-453.<br>Foner, 843-876.  |  |

| Date                          | Topic                                      | Reading Assignment Due   | Homework Assignment Due   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Thursday,<br/>April 19</b> | The Post-9/11 World                        | <i>Problems</i> , 453-457.<br>Bush's 2002 State of the Union Speech (on Moodle).<br>9/11 Commission Report (on Moodle).<br>Foner, 877-897. | Assignment 13: Individual and Collective Historical Memory (9/11 Archive and Hurricane Digital Memory Bank) |
| <b>Tuesday,<br/>April 24</b>  | Recent History: The Obama Years, and After | Obama's First Inaugural Address (on Moodle).<br>Foner, 897-917.  |   |
| <b>Thursday,<br/>April 26</b> | Final Project Presentations                |  | <b>Final Project Due</b>  |
| <b>Friday,<br/>May 4</b>      | <b>FINAL EXAM,<br/>11AM-1:30PM</b>         |  | <b>Bring blank Blue Book, 8.5 x 11 size</b>   |